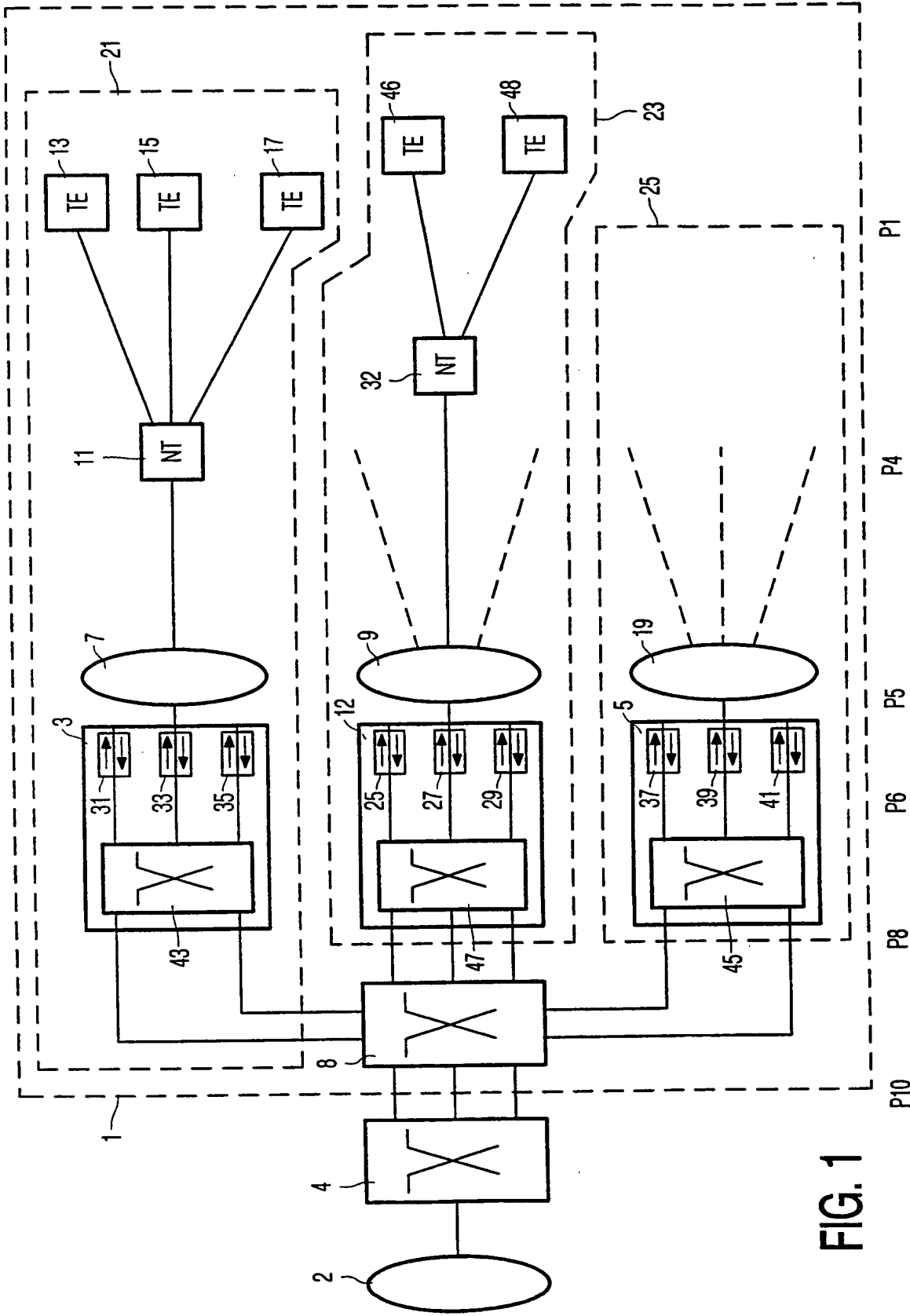


In a communication system a network switch (4) is coupled to an access network (1) in order to enable communication between a network (2) and terminals (13) connected to the access network (1). In the prior art communication system, the network switch needs to know the details of the access network, in order to be able to deliver information to the correct terminal. This requires that a dedicated network switch (4) is used which is substantially more complex than a standard network switch. To solve this problem, an access node switch (8) is used which deals with the access network specific details. Consequently a network switch (4) can be used which operates according to standard switching protocols.

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2/6

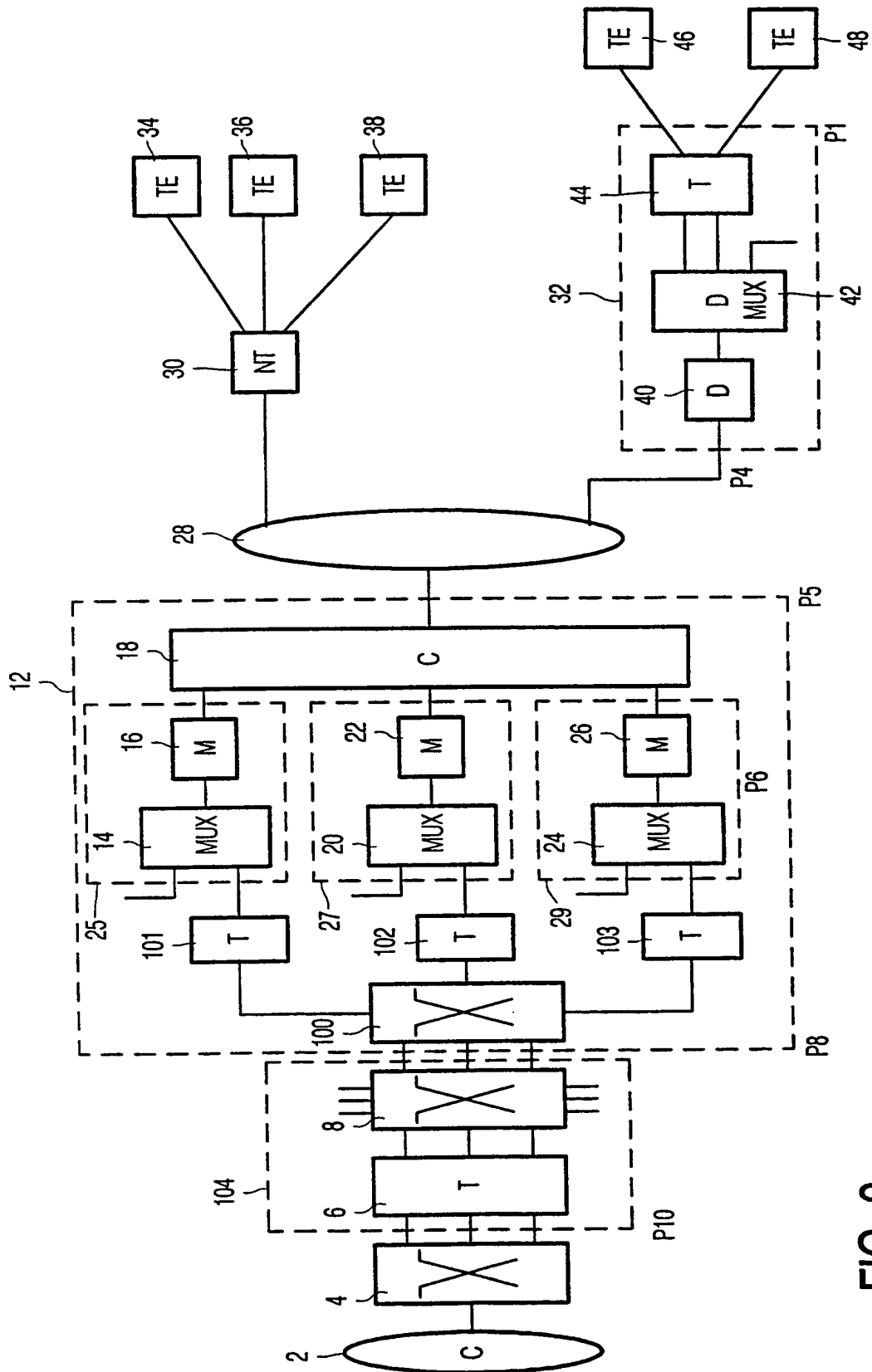


FIG. 2

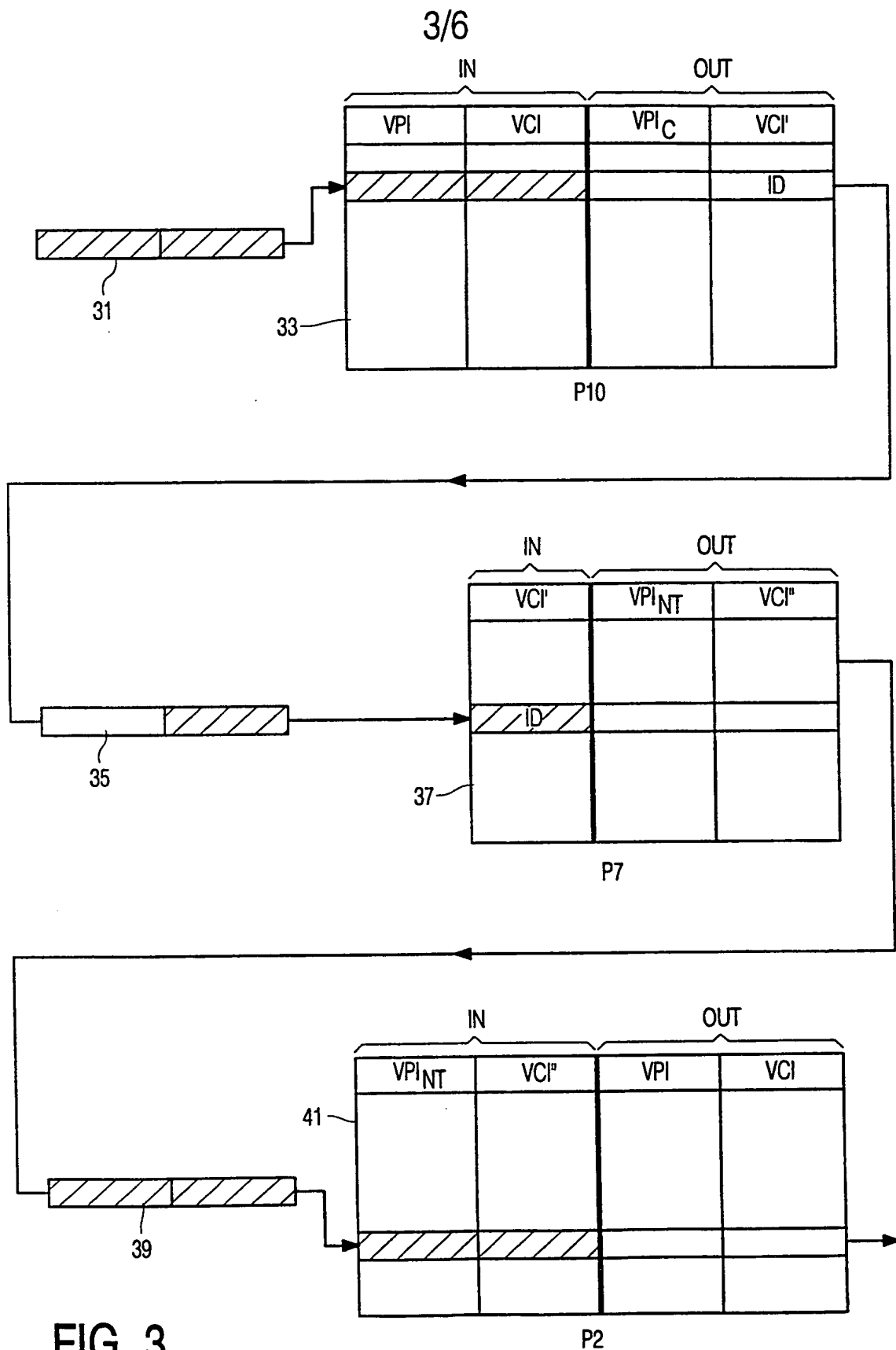


FIG. 3

4/6

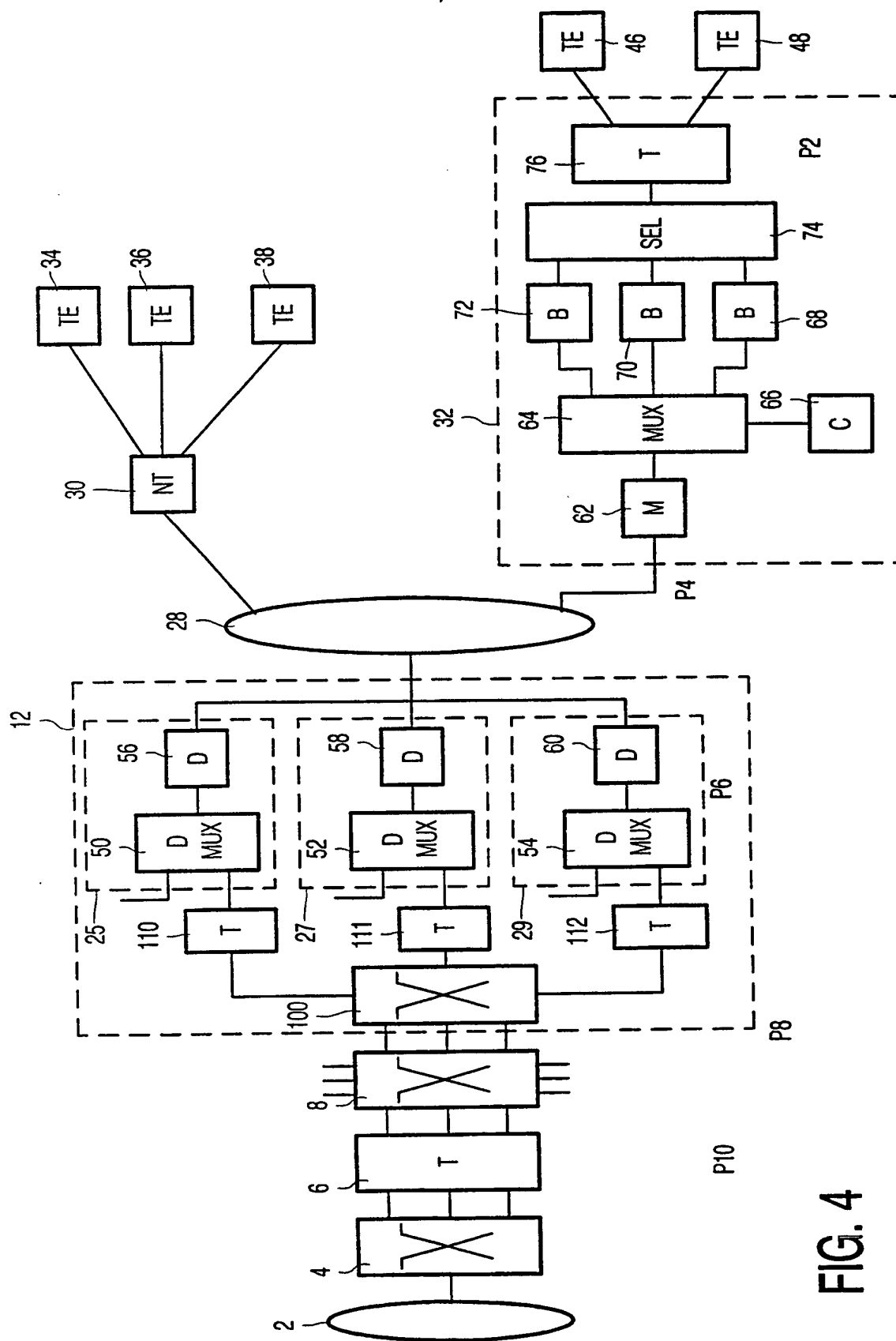
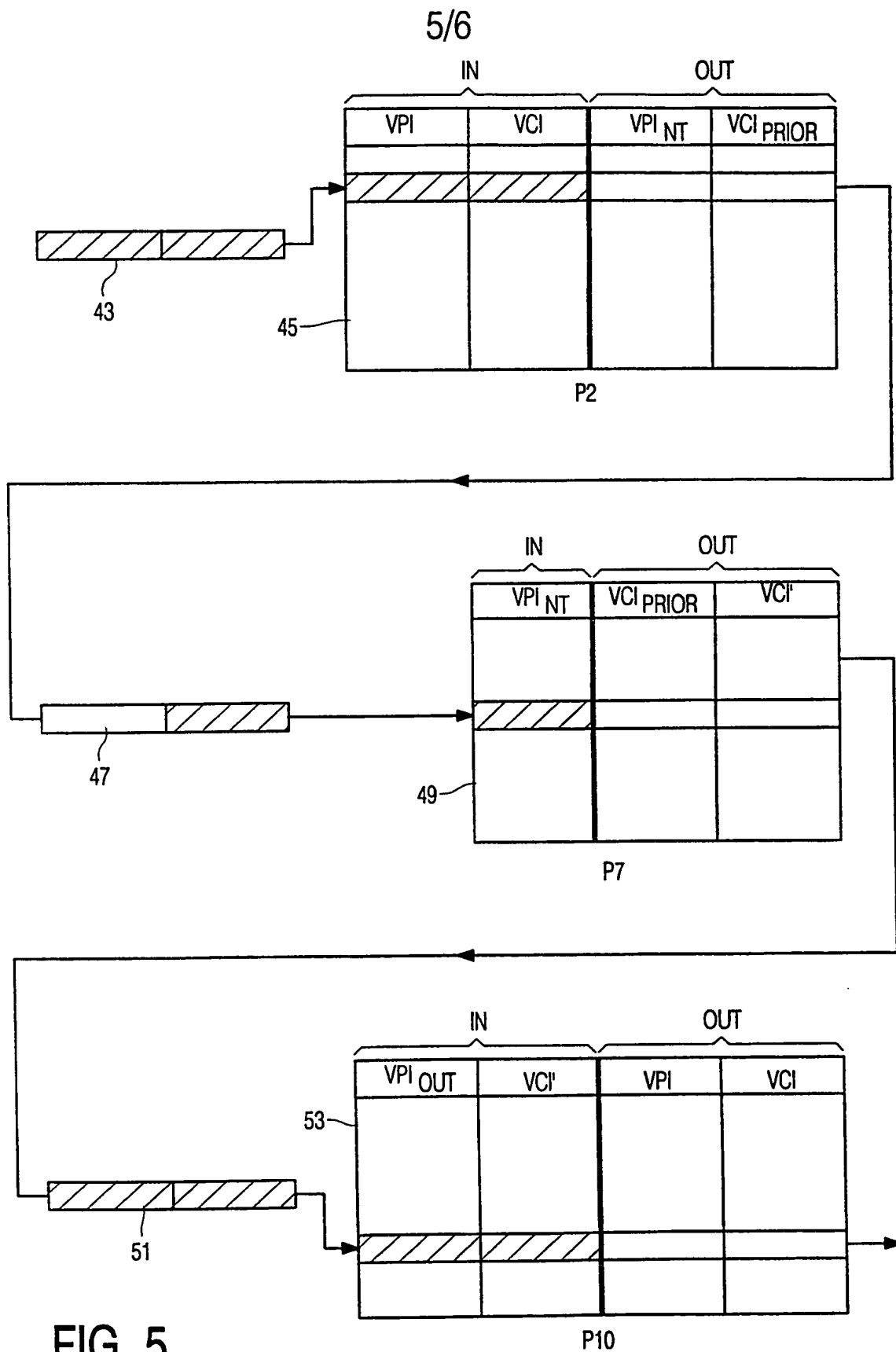


FIG. 4



6/6

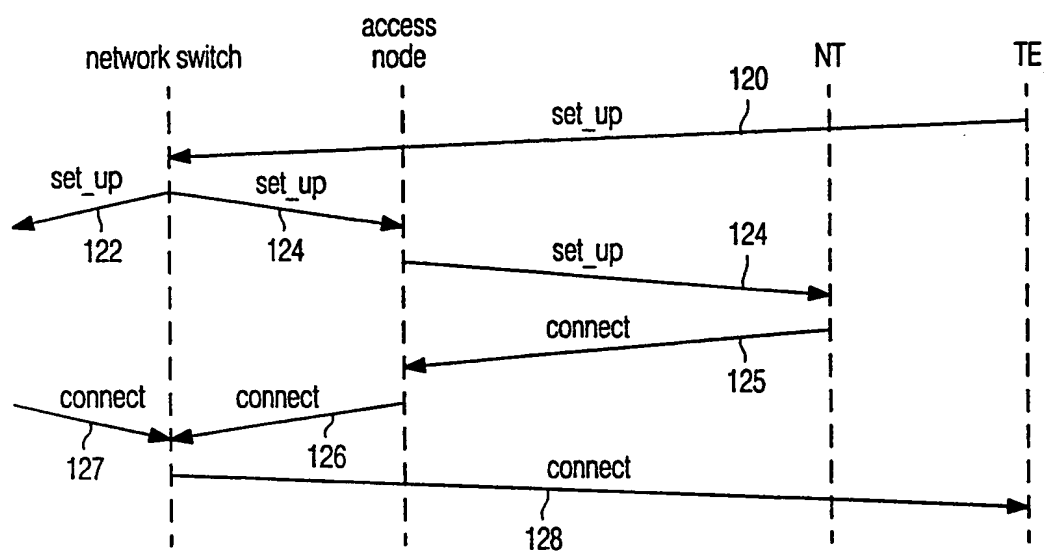


FIG. 6

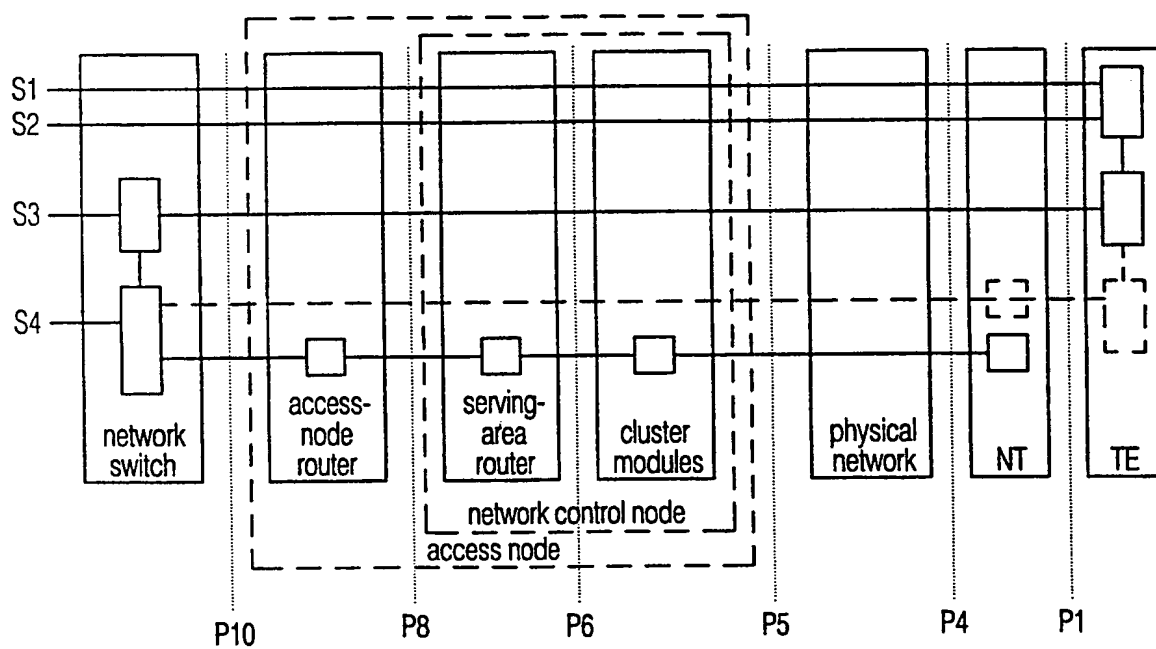


FIG. 7



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 98/01747

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
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<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5619500 A (NASSER HIEKALI), 8 April 1997 (08.04.97), column 1, line 13 - column 2, line 33; column 3, line 3 - column 5, line 45, figures 3-5, claims 1-3, abstract	1-8
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X	WO 9736407 A1 (I-CUBE INC.), 2 October 1997 (02.10.97), page 2, line 4 - page 3, line 34; page 4, line 25 - page 6, line 11, claims 1-9, abstract	1,7
Y		2-6,8
	--	
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X	WO 9604729 A1 (3COM CORPORATION), 15 February 1996 (15.02.96), page 1, line 29 - page 3, line 5; page 6, line 15 - page 7, line 21; page 9, line 29 - page 10, line 28, figures 1-3C, claims 1-7, abstract	1,7
Y	--	2-6,8
A	US 5488606 A (SATOSHI KAKUMA ET AL), 30 January 1996 (30.01.96), column 1, line 6 - column 2, line 43, claims 1-4, abstract	1-8
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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.  
**PCT/IB 98/01747**

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